

# Media Release

## Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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**May 25, 2014**

### ***YCSO K9 Team Stays Busy – 3 Recent Cases highlighted representing 145 pounds of seized Marijuana***

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\*\*\* On May 21, 2014, around 9:30 am, YCSO K9 deputies stopped a red 2013 Toyota Corolla with Texas plates travelling east on I40 in the Ash Fork area due to several lane change violations and excessive speed. The vehicle contained two occupants, a 31-year-old male and his passenger, 33-year old Ruben Plaza, both from California. During a discussion about the violations, the pair was unusually nervous and seemed confused regarding their travel timeline and plans. Additional observations contributed to the deputy's belief the vehicle contained contraband. A permission to search request was denied by both parties.



The deputy deployed his certified K9 partner to sniff the vehicle exterior and the K9 alerted on the trunk area of the Toyota. When the trunk lid was opened, deputies found a large duffle bag containing 48 pounds of marijuana packed for transportation and sales. Further investigation indicated Plaza was primarily responsible for the marijuana which he told deputies was heading to Texas for distribution.

Plaza was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on charges including Transportation and/or Sales of Marijuana. He was later released on a \$10,000 bond. The passenger was released.

\*\*\* On May 20, 2014, at approximately 7AM, 40-year-old Adrian Jemison from California was arrested for Possession/Transportation of Marijuana for Sale. He remains in-custody on a \$15,000 bond.

Background - K9 deputies were monitoring traffic on east I40 near Ash Fork when they noticed a white Volkswagen Passat with California plates exhibit several unsafe lane changes around



passenger vehicles and in one case, a tractor trailer rig. During a discussion about the traffic violations, Jemison exhibited nervous and deceptive behavior and his comments provided an indication drugs might be stored in his vehicle. Jemison declined the deputy's consent to search request.

As a result, the deputy allowed his certified K9 partner to sniff the exterior of the vehicle which resulted in an alert indicating the odor of narcotics inside. A search revealed a duffle bag on the back seat containing nearly 22 pounds of marijuana in multiple bundled packages.

At this point, Jemison admitted that he was being paid to transport the marijuana to Alabama for distribution.

**\*\*\* Also on May 20, 2014, about 6:30AM**, K9 deputies stopped a white 2005 Chevrolet Avalanche with New Mexico plates on east I40 near Ash Fork due to several moving violations. A subsequent investigation lead to the arrest of 26-year old Christyna Romero and 28-year-old Jessica Sandoval for Transportation of Marijuana for Sale, Possession of Marijuana for Sale, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Both indicated New Mexico as their home state and each has since been released on a \$25,000 bond.



Background - Deputies contacted the driver, Sandoval, and her passenger, Romero and following a conversation with both individuals, deputies developed suspicions the vehicle was travelling with drug contraband. When a K9 was deployed for an exterior sniff of the truck, it alerted to the rear passenger side of the vehicle. An assisting deputy opened the tailgate of the covered truck bed and found 3 duffle bags each containing several packages of marijuana – total weight 75 pounds.

Both denied any knowledge of the marijuana. Deputies located paperwork indicating very extensive travel miles in recent days between California and Phoenix area.

*Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website: [www.ycsoaz.gov](http://www.ycsoaz.gov)*